

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00474 100709Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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AMCONSUL HONG KONG
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID SREF SEDU LA FR AS
SUBJECT: GROUP OF LAO STUDENTS RETURNS FROM FRANCE

1. PARTY NEWSPAPER "VOICE OF THE PEOPLE" REPORTED MARCH 7 THAT SPECIAL AIR FRANCE FLIGHT BROUGHT OVER ONE HUNDRED LAO STUDENTS BACK TO VIENTIANE MARCH 5. VIENTIANE MAI NEWSPAPER SAID GROUP TOTALING 143 INCLUDED 108 STUDENTS, TWO MILITARY STUDENTS, SIXTEEN WORKERS, EIGHT REFUGEES AND NINE CHILDREN. VICE PRESIDENT OF LAO STUDENTS IN FRANCE, SAYASENG KHAMPHASITH, WHO LED THE GROUP, SAID THAT MOST OF THE STUDENTS WERE GRADUATES IN LAW, GEOLOGY AND OTHER SUBJECTS. A SIMILAR FLIGHT WILL REPORTEDLY BE ARRANGED IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL KHAMTAN RATANAVONG SAID TWO OF HIS SONS AND HIS DAUGHTER-IN-LAW RETURNED WITH GROUP. OTHER SOURCES SAID RETURNNEES INCLUDED MANOLA KHAMPHASITH, WIFE OF SAYASENG AND A NIECE OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER

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PHOUI SANANIKONE WHO IS REFUGEE IN FRANCE, AS WELL AS A DAUGHTER OF FORMER INTERIOR MINISTER PHENG PHONG-SAVAN, NOW IN VIENGSAVAN REINTEGRATION CAMP.

3. GROUP REPORTEDLY RETURNED VOLUNTARILY, BUT AIR FRANCE CONTACT TOLD US ONLY 142 RETURNED, ONE HAVING DISAPPEARED AFTER HIS BAGGAGE WAS LOADED ON BOARD.

TAKEOFF DELAYED WHILE PILOT HAD ALL BAGGAGE OFFLOADED
TO ELIMINATE UNACCOMPANIED BAGGAGE OF "NO-SHOW" FOR
OBVIOUS SECURITY REASONS. THE PLANE WAS CHARTERED
BY LPDR.

4. ALL RETURNING STUDNETS WILL REPORTEDLY VISIT WITH
THEIR FAMILIEIS UNTIL MARCH 18, WHEN THEY WILL BE SENT
TO FORMER LAW SCHOOL TO ATTEND A RE-EDUCATION SEMINAR.
AFTER THE SEMINAR LPDR OFFICIALS HAVE REPORTEDLY
PROMISED TO SEND SOME STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT YET
COMPLETED THEIR EDUCATION TO STUDY FURTHER IN
COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. OTHERS WILL CONTINUE THEIR
EDUCATION IN LPDR. STUDENTS WHO HAVE GRADUATED WILL
REPORTEDLY BE ASSIGNED TO POSITIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

5. WESTERN BUSINESSMAN SAID THAT LAO SOURCES HAD TALKED
WITH SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHE AT AIRPORT WHO REMARKED
THAT STUDENTS WERE FOOLS TO RETURN FROM FRANCE TO THE
"CEMETERY".

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